AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs at page 19, line 21 – page 20, line 15 to read as follows.

When the plug 10B is pushed in this state, the protruding hook ~~12~~ 112 contacts the bottom 21 of the second string passage hole 23 as shown in Fig. 9B, and the plug 10B is moved to a position where movement of the plug 10B in the inserting direction is limited.

In this step, each of the elastic leg pieces ~~12~~ 12B moves on the inner surface 22 (bottom 21) of the socket 20B with the tip section contacted thereto, and the warp becomes larger because the elastic leg piece ~~12~~ 12B elastically deforms, and the tips of the elastic leg pieces ~~12~~ 12B cross each other. In this state, the string 3 is held between the elastic leg pieces 12B, and a position of the cord stopper 1B against the string 3 is kept constant. As the crossing positions of the elastic leg pieces 12B wherebetween the string 3 is held is closer to the bottom 21 as compared to the third string passage hole 24, so that the string 3 is bent into a substantially V-shaped form between the third string passage holes 24, so that the position of the cord stopper 1B against the string 3 is fixed further tightly. Then the string 2 is inserted and passed through the first string passage hole 111 of the plug ~~10~~ 10B and the second string passage hole 23 of the socket ~~20~~ 20B.

When the plug ~~10~~ 10B is released from the held state after the string 2 is inserted and passed through the cord stopper 1B, the largely bent elastic leg pieces ~~12~~ 12B try to restore the original form due to the elasticity, so that the plug 10B is moved in the direction contrary to the inserting direction. Accordingly, as shown in Fig. 7, the string 2 inserted and passed through the first string passage hole 111 and the second string passage hole ~~222~~ 23 is tightly held between the plug 10B and the socket 20B.

Further, as shown in Fig. 7 and Fig. 8, the elastic leg pieces ~~12~~ 12B maintain the crossing state at two positions, and although the holding force is smaller as compared to that in the state shown in Fig. 9B, the string 3 is still tightly held. Accordingly, also the position of the cord stopper ~~1~~ 1B against the string 3 is kept fixed.

Please amend the paragraph at page 20, lines 21-24 to read as follows.

When the plug 10B is released from the pushed state, the plug 10B is pushed in the direction contrary to the inserting direction due to the force generated by elastic deformation of the elastic leg pieces ~~12~~ 12B to the state shown in Fig. 9A. Therefore the string 3 can easily be pulled off.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, line 25 – page 22, line 2 to read as follows.

Also the elastic leg pieces 12C each have a substantially circular curved form like the elastic leg pieces 12B, and are arrayed along the string 3 in the order that two elastic leg pieces 12C curved in the same direction are provided on the two sides, and the one curved in the reverse direction is provided between them. In the direction perpendicular to the string 3, bases (plug bodies) of the two elastic leg pieces ~~12B~~ 12C curved in the same direction and a base of the one elastic leg piece ~~12B~~ 12C curved in the reverse direction are arranged with a space therebetween. However, the space is smaller as compared to that in the plug 10B.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 22, line 28 – page 23, line 17 to read as follows.

In this step, the elastic leg pieces 12C moves on the inner surfaces 22 (including the contact surface 228 and the bottom 21) of the socket ~~20B~~ 20C with the tip sections thereof contacting the inner surfaces 22, and the elastic leg pieces 12C elastically deform so that spaces between the elastic leg pieces 12C become larger.

Accordingly, the string 3 can easily be inserted and passed through the third string passage hole 24. Further as the first string passage hole 111 of the plug ~~10~~ 10C and the second string passage hole 23 of the socket ~~20~~ 20C are communicated to each other, the string 2 can easily be inserted and passed through the holes 23 and 111.

After the strings 2 and 3 are inserted and passed through the cord stopper 1C, when the plug 10C is released from the pushed state, the elastic leg pieces 12C having been warped try to restore the original state respectively, so that the plug 10C is moved in the direction contrary to the inserting direction. Accordingly, as shown in Fig. 10, the string 2 inserted and passed through the first string passage hole 111 and the second string passage hole ~~22~~ 23 are tightly held between the plug 10C and the socket 20C.

Further spaces between tip portions of the elastic leg pieces 12C become larger due to the action of the contact surfaces 228 to which the elastic leg pieces contact, and the spaces between the elastic leg pieces 12C provided with the string 3 therebetween become smaller proportionately, so that the string 3 is tightly held. Accordingly, also the position of the cord stopper ~~1~~ 1C against the string 3 is kept fixed.

Please amend the paragraph at page 25, line 29 – page 26, line 5 to read as follows.

After the strings 2 and 3 are inserted and passed through the cord stopper 1D, when the plug 10D is released from the pushed state, the bent elastic leg piece 12D tries to restore the original form due to the elasticity to move the plug ~~10~~ 10D in the direction contrary to the inserting direction. Accordingly, as shown in Fig. 12, the string 2 inserted and passed through the first string passage hole 111 and second string passage hole 23 is tightly held between the plug 10D and the socket 20D.

Please amend the paragraph at page 27, lines 14-19 to read as follows.

On the other hand, the socket 20E is a bottomed cylindrical tube having the bottom 21 like the socket 20, and the second string passage hole 23 and the third string passage hole 24 are formed at different positions in the axial direction of the socket 20E. However, different from each of the embodiments described above, the third string passage hole 24 is not aligned to the axially central position of the socket ~~20D~~ 20E (a central position of a face perpendicular to the axis), but located at an eccentric position.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 28, lines 14-23 to read as follows.

In this state, when the plug 10E is pushed in the inserting direction, the tip sections of the elastic leg pieces 12E are guided by the second inclined surface 227 as shown in Fig. 15B, and the elastic leg pieces 12E deform elastically. In this step, the elastic leg pieces ~~12~~ 12E move away from the first inclined surface 226, and the space between the first inclined surface 226 and the elastic leg pieces 12E becomes larger than the width of the third string passage hole 24. Therefore the string 3 can easily be passed through the third string passage hole 24.

Further as the first string passage hole 111 of the plug ~~10D~~ 10E and the second string passage hole 23 of the socket ~~20D~~ 20E are communicated to each other, the string 2 can easily be inserted and passed through the holes 111 and 23.

Please replace the paragraph at page 33, line 26 – page 34, line 4 to read as follows.

In the state when the protruding hook 112 of the plug 10G contacts the second string passage hole 23 of the socket 20G and movement of the plug 10G in the direction contrary to the inserting direction is limited, the coil spring 30G is not compressed, so that also the force for biasing the pressing plate 31 is small. In this state, as the result of the balance between the biasing forces of spring ~~30~~ 30G and 32, the space between the pressing plate 31 and the bottom 21 is larger than the width (thickness) of the third string passage hole 24. Therefore the string 3 can easily be inserted and passed through the third string passage hole 24.

Please insert the following paragraph immediately after the paragraph ending at page 34, line 8.

Further as the first string passage hole 111 of the plug 10G and the second string passage hole 23 of the socket 20G are communicated to each other, the string 2 can be inserted and passed through the holes 111 and 23.